

# Life Sket

A life sketch of Miss Emma S. Lansing, 84, who died at her home, 143 Clinton street, Monday night is herewith presented.

By JOHN PEPP

Miss Emma Sterling Lansing was of proud lineage and distinguished ancestry, being a member of a family that for generations has been conspicuous in national and state, as well as local affairs. Her ancestors, besides the Lansings, included the TenEycks, Hubbards, Dodges and the Sterlings. The Hubbards, Dodges and Sterlings were of English and Scotch descent and came to Northern New York from Connecticut.

Ancestors in the various family lines played leading roles in American history and were associated with some of the most important figures in civil and military life from pre-Revolution to the present. He was later a member of the convention that ratified the constitution. Subsequently, he was supreme court justice, then chief justice and finally, in 1801, chancellor of the state.

Miss Lansing's father was one of the founders and first president of the Jefferson County Bar association, was admitted to law practice in 1854, once practiced with George H. Sherman in the firm of Lansing & Sherman and later with Charles A. Sherman. Finally, he practiced with his son, Robert, in the firm of Lansing & Lansing. On Jan. 27, 1864, he married Maria L. Dodge, daughter of Judge Edwin and Jerusha Sterling Dodge, Gouverneur. They had four children: Robert, who became a lawyer of international reputation and secretary of state in President Wilson's cabinet and who died Oct. 30, 1928, at the age of 64; Washington, D. C.; Edwin Dodge, who died in 1870 at the age of 3; Emma Sterling, Katharine TenEyck. Katharine, youngest of the four, died at the age of 58 on Nov. 14, 1933.

John Lansing, father of Miss Lansing, died July 5, 1907, in the Clinton street family home at the age of 74. His wife, Maria Dodge Lansing, died June 7, 1906, in the same house at the age of 68. She was a native of Gouverneur.

The Dodges, like the Lansings, were of outstanding prominence. Judge Dodge, Miss Lansing's maternal grandfather, came to Watertown from Connecticut at an early age and studied law in the office of Micah Sterling. He was admitted to the bar at

Miss Emma Sterling Lansing, who died Monday night at her home at the age of 84, leaves a legacy of public service to this city, county, state and nation that will never be duplicated. She was a leader in her church, in the charitable organizations in Watertown and in her political party both here and in the state. She was a nurse with the Red Cross in World War I. She was the organizer of charities throughout her life, and she was always active in the non-partisan government of Watertown.

It is always interesting to review some of the facts as to why she had such a strong sense of public service. The present generation has known her only from her more recent charitable activities, from the fact that she has always appeared in roles of prominence on those occasions when state and national leaders visit this locality. She was an honored guest, for example, when the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Northern New York. On those many occasions when Mrs. Roosevelt has come here she has always been prominently identified with the ceremonies attendant to these visits. Gov. Harri-man has sought her out on those occasions when he visits Watertown. So also has Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who on many occasions has stopped to visit "Aunt Emma" at her home on Clinton street.

The reason that she had close friendship with these people is the fact that she had been identified with them in previous political and charitable activities. Her ancestors included the earliest families in Watertown. Her grandfather was Judge Robert Lansing who came into this area from Albany. The family went back at least to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 where her uncle was a delegate.

Her grandfather, Judge Robert Lansing, came to Watertown in 1817. He had a career as a lawyer here, was married to the oldest daughter of Noadiah Hubbard, one of the first settlers in Jefferson County. Upon the death of her grandmother, her grandfather married a sister, Cornelia Hubbard. Her father was John Lansing. This Lansing was the first president of the Jefferson County Bar Association and was identified with the old Lansing and Sherman law firm. There were four children. There was Robert Lansing who became secretary of state under Woodrow Wilson. There was a brother who died at the age of three and two sisters, Miss Emma Lansing and Katharine TenEyck.

this community which she was most competent to carry on even in these years since 1928 when her brother, Robert Lansing, died and 1933 when her youngest sister died.

The two sisters in World War I were twice decorated by the French government for distinguished service under enemy fire. They were in France, Belgium, and Germany from September of 1917 until after the war in 1919. Returning here, her career in Watertown in the 1920's is recalled for the leadership she gave the Visiting Nurse association. For 27 years she was associated with this organization. She was one of the principals in the movement to construct the Memorial Health building on Park place. The Jefferson County Tuberculosis and Public Health association benefitted from her service. Back in the 1920's she was instrumental in the establishment of the Central Index which concerned itself with the administering of clothes and food to needy residents of Watertown.

Following the depression in the 1930's, Miss Lansing played a prominent role in the establishment of the Watertown Council of Social Agencies which was designed to bring all the welfare and social service groups together in an overall organization, preserving the identity of each, but providing for an interchange of association and community information by all.

She was a lifelong Democrat in county, state, and national politics. She had been at the party's conventions. She was a member of the state's official committee at Franklin D. Roosevelt's first inauguration in 1933. She had been associate chairman of the county committee, and most active in the Democratic Women's Club of Jefferson county, of which she was the treasurer.

Miss Lansing had a deep sense of devotion to her church, and particularly to the affairs of the Faith Chapel where she taught for many years. At the time of her death she was still active in the affairs of Faith Chapel, and during her recent illness after her fall last February on several occasions the meeting of the Faith Chapel committee of the First Presbyterian church was held at her residence. She retired in 1950 as a teacher at Faith Chapel, and at that time she had put in more than 60 years of service to that institution.

Her last recognition, which came to her in 1955, was a citation from St. Lawrence university for her service to Northern New York and